

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 066524

FOR CHARGE

E.O. 11652:GDS

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SUBJECT: FORTHCOMING AUDIENCE WITH SHAH: SUB-SAHARA
AFRICA

REF: TEHRAN 2494

1. FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS WERE PREPARED FOR USREP'S
ATTENDANCE AT FEBRUARY MEETING OF NATO EXPERTS:

-- IN OUR VIEW, THE REPORT RIGHTLY REFLECTS THE CONCERN OF
THE EXPERTS WITH THE INCREASINGLY BLEAK PROSPECTS FOR AN
EARLY NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, THE DETERI-
ORATING SITUATION IN THE HORN OF AFRICA, AND THE DESTABILIZ-
ING ROLE THAT THE SOVIET UNION CAN PLAY IN THESE AND OTHER
AFRICAN REGIONS.

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-- THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THE WEST MUST SUPPORT PEACEFUL
EVOLUTION IN AFRICA. MANY AFRICAN COUNTRIES WILL EXPECT
FROM THE WEST "A MORE EFFECTIVE CONTRIBUTION IN THEIR SEARCH
FOR PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS TO THE CONTINENT'S URGENT POLITICAL
PROBLEMS" AS WELL AS INCREASED ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. WE UN-
DERSTAND THESE DESIRES AND WILL ATTEMPT TO BE RESPONSIVE.

-- IN RHODESIA, WE BELIEVE THE WEST MUST PUT ADDITIONAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PRESSURE ON IAN SMITH IF DESTRUCTIVE CONFLICT BETWEEN THE RACES AND THE RISE TO POWER OF RADICAL LEADERSHIP IN THE AFRICAN NATIONALIST MOVEMENTS ARE TO BE AVOIDED.

-- IN RELATION TO NAMIBIA, MY GOVERNMENT DESIRES TO INJECT NEW LIFE INTO THE NEGOTIATIONS. WE INTEND TO DO SO THROUGH TALKS WITH THE SOUTH AFRICANS AND A NUMBER OF BLACK AFRICAN STATES.

-- WE BELIEVE THE OUTLOOK FOR SOUTH AFRICA IS FAR FROM REASSURING. DESPITE UNPRECEDENTED TURBULENCE IN THE TOWNSHIPS AND THE EMERGENCE OF A NEW RADICALIZED GENERATION OF BLACK POLITICAL LEADERS, THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAS SHOWN NO EVIDENCE THAT IT IS PREPARED TO CONSIDER MEANINGFUL AND NECESSARY STEPS TOWARDS A BASIC TRANSFORMATION OF THE COUNTRY'S POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SYSTEM.

-- THE UNITED STATES ALSO REMAINS CONCERNED ABOUT THE INCREASING TIES BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION, ANGOLA, AND MOZAMBIQUE. ANGOLA HAS SIGNED A DESIRE TO STRENGTHEN ITS LINKS WITH THE WEST, BUT REMAINS EXCESSIVELY DEPENDENT ON CUBAN TROOPS. WE ALSO RECOGNIZE THE POSSIBILITY THAT MOZAMBIQUE MAY TURN TO THE SOVIET UNION AND CUBA FOR MILITARY SUPPORT SHOULD RHODESIAN MILITARY FORCES UNDERTAKE NEW ACTIONS AGAINST RHODESIAN GUERRILLA CAMPS LOCATED IN MOZAMBIQUE. WE COULD HARDLY WELCOME SUCH MOVES BY
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EITHER SIDE.

-- FINALLY, WE AGREE WITH THE EXPERTS' CONCLUSION THAT THERE IS LITTLE REASON TO EXPECT ANYTHING BUT A VIOLENT PROCESS OF POLITICAL CHANGE IN ETHIOPIA FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. DESPITE THE UNREMITTING EFFORTS OF THE MILITARY LEADERSHIP, UNREST IS SPREADING IN THE COUNTRY-SIDE AND ETHIOPIA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH ITS NEIGHBORS IS WORSENING PERCEPTIBLY. GIVEN THE PRESENT LEVEL OF SOVIET INFLUENCE IN SOMALIA AND THE POTENTIAL FOR INCREASED SOVIET INFLUENCE IN ETHIOPIA, WE WILL WISH TO WATCH THE HORN WITH CARE, AS THE EXPERTS RIGHTLY SUGGEST.

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